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A MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE UFO PHENOMENON
REPORTS, INVESTIGATIONS & ANALYSES

"There is no hope of advance in science without a paradox."—Niels Bohr

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PLUS:
Foreign Forum,
UFO Profile: September, 1976
Latest UFO News

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J. Allen Hynek, *Chairman of the Board*; David Baldwin, *President and Publisher*; Carl Teutsch, *Executive Vice President*; Harvey Koloms, *Treasurer*.

EDITORIAL

by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

Whatever one may think about UFOs—whatever one may believe about their physical reality—whatever one may speculate about their origins, one fact has stood out over the past quarter of a century: UFOs continue to be reported by people the world over, and in all walks of life.

The contents of these reports continue to intrigue, mystify, entrance and engage our imaginations. Even the skeptic can barely fail to sense the dramatic element in a well-documented, multiply-witnessed report of a UFO close encounter. Almost always, each new UFO report bears some relation to previous reports, yet each is a new challenge to the inquiring mind. It is a challenge, but it is also a threat to established ways of looking at things, to our present concept of reality. Each well investigated UFO report (which means that all reports for which a rational explanation has been found have been eliminated) carries us closer to the edge of reality. It suggests that conventional ways of looking at things, what we accept as reality, may have to be changed, much in the same way that Einstein presented us with a new way of looking at the physical world. It suggests the need for a shift in outlook and for an allowance for things not yet known. Each age has had its change in scientific outlook, in its "world-view", and the UFO phenomenon may well point the way to the next such change.

What that change might be we can find only by diligent research. Quick guesses or wishful thinking will not do—only well-supported, well-executed research will eventually yield answers. It is becoming increasingly clear that the UFO is much more than that which merely fools the eye or deludes the fool. Much more—it is entirely new information, and only the unprejudiced mind is prepared to take advantage of, and meet, this new challenge.

J. Allen Hynek

CORRESPONDENCE

The editors invite correspondence from all individuals on all matters directly involving UFO activity around the world. Watch for this column beginning with the next issue.

IN CURRENT JOURNALS

We are in receipt in recent weeks of the following 20 journals and newsletters. The REPORTER will be furnished on an exchange basis to all recognized UFO journals. Each month we will highlight briefly significant articles and cases in these journals as space permits.

A.C.O.S. BULLETIN (Australian coordination section, Centre for UFO Studies)
APPROCHE (Societe Varoise D'Etude des Phenomenes Spatiaux)
APRO BULLETIN
AUSTRALIAN UFO BULLETIN (Victorian Research Society)
CANADIAN UFO REPORT
THE CUFOS BULLETIN (Center for UFO Studies)
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW
GROUND SAUCER WATCH SUMMER NEWS BULLETIN (Civilian Aerial Phenomena Research Bulletin)
INFORESPACE (Societe Belge d'Etude des Phenomenes Spatiaux)
MUFON UFO JOURNAL (Mutual UFO Network)
ODISEJA (UFO-NLP sekcija Zveza Solt)
PHENOMENES SPATIAUX (Groupement d'Etude des Phenomenes Aeriens et objets Spatiaux Insolites)
SOBEPS NEWS (Societe Belge d'Etude des Phenomenes Spatiaux)
STENDEK (Centro de Estudios Interplanetarios)
UFO INVESTIGATOR (National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena)
UFOLOGIA (Cercle Francais de Recherches Ufologiques)
UFOLOGY
UFO-QUEBEC (UFO-Quebec)
UFO RESEARCH CENTRE: ONTARIO (Toronto Society for Psychical Research)

PSYCHIC UFO'S—A SCIENTIFIC ENTRAPMENT, by Bill Pitts, MUFON UFO JOURNAL, June, 1976. "It is this writer's sincere belief—that, when all the hoaxes, misidentifications, and misconceptions are proven to be such—eventually, we will find that the true UFO will be a metallic-structured object. Where are they from, why are they here, and how they got here—is pure conjecture at this time."

BOOK REVIEW

BEHAVIOR AND PERCEPTION IN STRANGE ENVIRONMENTS, Helen E. Ross. George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London, 1974. 171 pages.

Most UFO literature is concerned with the reported characteristics and case histories of the phenomenon. Very little is available on the psychological effects on perception due to unfamiliarity with the object, or set of circumstances, in question. This book deals with the curious distortions of optics, sound, orientation and movement which can occur under the stress of a strange environment.

UFO investigators will find much material of interest here. The chapter on perception of motion discusses such effects as autokinesis (the illusory movement of stars and other lights), as well as visual illusions in apparent size, distance and speed. One section discusses the difficulties of discerning the motion of star-like objects from a moving vehicle, a situation common to Nocturnal Light reports. Others illustrate the difficulties in determining the distance to glowing objects, the positioning of sounds and the motion characteristic of both.

UFOs, themselves, are briefly discussed here. As one might guess, the author falls prey to the temptation of dismissing *all* UFOs as the results of misinterpretation and "social stress". Despite this personal opinion, the book does provide unique information useful to casual readers and serious students alike.

FOREIGN FORUM

This is a representative sampling of UFO sightings from around the world. While we can not exert the same degree of control over these cases we can on domestic ones, it is of value to see that the same characteristics are reported for this phenomenon abroad as in the U.S.

ARGENTINA: Rio Negrina de Viedina, July 14, 1976. Four reports were received from the technical division of the National Meteorological Service, based at the Gobernador Castillo Airport. They advised that for a period of two hours two brightly shining UFOs performed fantastic maneuvers at high speed in the pre-dawn skies over the airport. When dawn occurred, the daylight neutralized the bright lights of the UFOs but the observers claim that they departed the area at very high speed.
SOURCE: Managua NOVADADES, Nicaragua

GREAT BRITAIN: Cumbria, August 14, 1976. A couple out walking along a road observed a very bright light in the sky which was brighter than the planet Venus. Through binoculars, the object looked like a silver disc reflecting light from its top surface. After approximately thirty seconds, the object became smaller as though traveling directly away from the witnesses. Their sighting appeared to be corroborated by two other witnesses who reported seeing a similar object at the same time.
SOURCE: NUFON, G.B.

IRAN: September 18, 1976. Two Iranian Air Force Phantom jets took off after a mysterious round object that had first been spotted by airport controllers at the Mehrabad Civil Airport. The pilots succeeded in intercepting the UFO which was described as a round multi-colored object. The pilots were quoted as saying that as they intercepted it, the object sped away at several times the speed of sound. It returned shortly thereafter and gave chase to the interceptors. When the pilots tried to open fire on it, it was reported that they were unable to because their electronic and radio communication systems seemed paralyzed. The pilots described the object as half the apparent size of the moon but three times as bright. Finally, it was added that a fifteen foot circular object left the principal object and landed south of Tehran. Helicopters were reported to have searched the area with as yet unannounced results.
SOURCE: Melbourne HERALD, Australia

PORTUGAL: near Lisbon, September 24, 1976. A Portuguese Boeing 707 airliner avoided collision with an object described as saucer-shaped with one large and four small lights. The plane veered to the right and the "saucer" veered to the left and seemed to dematerialize. The object was reported seen by an American Airlines pilot and the control tower at Lisbon Airfield. Reported in *De Telegraaf.*
SOURCE: UFO Newsclipping Service, Seattle

PUERTO RICO: Aquada, September 1, 1976. A retired science teacher observed a circular shaped glowing object while walking on a beach. The object seemed to move slowly, then hover, and then fell abruptly, tumbling over and over, until it nearly entered the ocean. It then righted itself and proceeded slowly westward. The UFO was described as having a dull gray finish and appeared to be quite distant.
SOURCE: Direct

ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION

by Dr. J. Allen Hynek

Welcome, charter subscribers, to this, the first issue of the International UFO Reporter (IUR). It is my pleasure to welcome you to this new and exciting venture, and it is my duty, as Editor and as a scientist, to set forth the purposes and philosophy of this new publication. WHY, the International UFO Reporter?

This can best be answered, I believe, by first describing the nature and state of the UFO situation today. From this the purpose of, and need for, this new publication will follow clearly. Finally it is important to establish major publication and editorial policies, a sort of Declaration of Principles, to be adhered to throughout.

Toward a New Estimate of the Situation

More than a quarter of a century ago there was sent to the highest levels of the Pentagon a secret document entitled, "ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION". It contained the considered thinking of a small group of the officers and men at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in Dayton, Ohio, who had been concerned with the sudden influx of "flying saucer" reports. This group "estimated" that the situation was indeed serious: the planet Earth was the unwilling host to extra-terrestrial visitors, and the Air Force had a real problem on its hands.

Readers familiar with UFO history know the reported fate of this document. The very top "brass" didn't accept its conclusions. There was no "hard" evidence, they said,—no compelling evidence that the security of the United States was threatened. Since national security was, and is, the primary concern of our armed forces, the "Estimate of the Situation" was killed and the few copies in existence destroyed. If one remains, it would be a collector's item indeed.

Apparently no one in these higher circles of national defense evinced any curiosity about the great flow of reports themselves: why now (1947-8) and not at some other time? Why not, for instance, during the war, when public fear was high. Or during the Great Depression when people were truly insecure [some sociologists hold that insecurity helps spawn UFO reports]. Or before the war, when science fiction was experiencing a major rise?

And why "flying saucers"? Why not flying tables or flying garages, or for that matter, why not flying pink elephants? But these weren't being reported. What is *not* reported might be just as important as what is reported. No satisfactory answer was ever given to these questions.

No one seemed to care about the real nature of the phenomenon, its sociological, psychological, and scientific aspects. Here we had a flood of bizarre reports—incredible yet consistent accounts—from many parts of the world, yet no attention was paid once it was felt that our national security was not at stake.

Much time has since passed and the UFO phenomenon is still with us and the basic questions have still not been answered. It is time for another Estimate of the Situation, this time addressed to the interested public rather than to the Pentagon. This Estimate of the Situation is based on very much more data, from all over the world, has a much longer time base, and is the result of dedicated work by far more people and organizations than were ever involved or concerned at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Is the public interested? Yes, very much so. The Gallup Poll indicated that some 15 million Americans claim to have seen UFOs and that some 51% of the people feel that there is more to UFOs than just nonsense—that they are "for real". It would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to find another single, specific (non-sex related!) subject which for more than a quarter of a century has had as much printer's ink used up on it, caused as much discussion and argument, sometimes with tempers fraying, had as many wry and caustic remarks made about it, has been the point of as many jokes and cartoons, or has had as many queries raised about it, as has the subject of UFOs, and at all levels of society.

The concept of other intelligences in space making contact with us (which, of course, is the popular interpretation of UFOs) appeals to us at several levels: fear of the unknown, promise of extra-terrestrial help, far-reaching theological implications, all rolled into one. And, while many still hesitate to express their interest in UFOs openly, it is clearly there, as even casual probing of the subject among people in general reveals time and again.

Let us therefore make a new Estimate of the Situation. What is the considered opinion today of these dedicated and technically competent few who have studied* the available data, weighed the evidence with an open mind, after fully taking into account the many stupidities, loose and wishful thinking, and many honest (and sometimes dishonest) mistakes of the untutored and the "mentally tilted" who, most unfortunately, have been associated with the subject.

The consensus among them, the present Estimate of the Situation, is this:

UFOs are real in the sense that an actual but unexplained phenomenon exists. Truly unidentified sightings of events in the air and close to, or on, the ground (some of which leave definite physical traces of their presence) exist.

Reports of such events are frequently similar in content regardless of the country or culture from which they originate. They are world-wide in origin and in the main, appear to fit a relatively small number of broad patterns.

The UFO "events" appear to be isolated in both space and time. A given event is rarely observed over a wide area and it lasts for a relatively short time. For this reason, a given event is usually observed by a limited number of people. This characteristic

* Clearly, the opinions of those who have not studied the phenomenon need not be considered, any more than one would give serious consideration to the opinions of a TV comedian on the subject of quantum mechanics.

is well established but has often led to the out-of-hand dismissal of the subject on the grounds that "if UFOs are 'real', why aren't they seen in more places and by more people?" That is indeed one of the primary questions research into UFOs seeks to answer.

Partly for the above reason, the public is not aware that UFO events are reported in far greater numbers than is commonly believed.

The majority of those who have witnessed truly puzzling UFO sightings generally are people who are quite sane, of good repute, well respected in their communities and often are well above average in education and technical training.

The study of UFOs has been grossly neglected but is eminently worthy of serious scientific study. We do not know, however, to which "branch" of science the study of UFOs properly belongs: do they "belong" to an astronomer any more than they do to a physicist or to a psychologist?

One of the greatest barriers to the study of UFOs is the often great reluctance of witnesses to the UFO experience to report the event for fear of ridicule. It has been estimated that for every UFO report there have been more than a dozen unreported events.

Much could be written in support of each of the above statements. A newsletter format, however, does not permit this; but one can summarize:

A real UFO phenomenon exists but by its very nature, it requires time and study to demonstrate its reality to one totally unfamiliar with it. It is something like trying to demonstrate to a life-long dweller in the tropics that snow really exists. It might take some doing, and at least, a willingness on his part to listen and learn.

With respect to the brevity and localized nature of the UFO event, Isaac Asimov has written*: "The trouble is, that whatever the UFO phenomenon is, it comes and goes unexpectedly. There is no way of examining it systematically. It appears suddenly and accidentally, is partially seen, and then is more or less inaccurately reported. We remain dependent on more or less anecdotal accounts."

True in the main, but it does not deny the existence of the UFO phenomenon. It simply says we have a tough problem on our hands. But Asimov is not correct on two points: some UFOs are quite completely (not partially) seen, and, more importantly, UFOs can be (and have been) studied systematically. The existence of UFOCAT [a computerized UFO data bank containing over 50,000 individual case entries] and its use for pattern studies, is but one example.

* *TV Guide*, Dec. 14-20, 1975.

The Need for a Scientific UFO Newsletter at a Popular Level

There exists an enormously wide gap between the above Estimate of the Situation and the level of UFO information available to the interested public. The latter generally is that which can be found in the sensational tabloid press, the pulp magazines, men's adventure magazines and even girlie magazines. There are also, in many cases, the paperbacks written by persons far more dedicated to the "fast buck" than to scientific clarity. The sensational press coverage the UFO phenomenon has had for many years has been a viciously effective barrier to serious consideration by scientists and the educated public as well. Compounding this has been the great appeal the UFO subject has for the pseudo-religious, the "mystical trippers", and the unbalanced, itself a fitting study for the psychologist and the sociologist.

Clearly needed is a publication that can help bridge this gap, a forum for the qualified investigator of UFO reports to present his findings to the public and to his peers, concisely and accurately. How often one reads about or hears of a baffling UFO experience but has no means of determining to what extent—if at all—the story can be taken seriously? What checking has been done? How many witnesses were seriously, and independently, interviewed? What qualifications did the investigators have? Were they willing to expose a hoax or to demonstrate the fallacy of a given report? And, finally, what was their goal—a serious striving toward an understanding and solution of the problem, or merely to mystify, to titillate, or to "sell the product", and thus almost certainly to mislead?

Declaration of Principles of Publication

As Editor, and as a scientist, I would like to set down the principles and philosophy of the International UFO Reporter:

To treat the UFO "scene", the flow of reports, as the global phenomenon it is, but quite separately from theories advanced to explain the phenomenon. Since the most popular current hypothesis by far is "extraterrestrial visitation", it must not be allowed to obfuscate the open study of the phenomenon. There might be *another* answer—even several answers!

The "Reporter" will be a concise, timely review of the current UFO phenomenon, dedicated to the observance of the scientific method and to the goal of solving one of the great mysteries of our time. Currently reported UFO activity and its investigation by technically qualified persons will be reviewed, briefly and accurately. Truly provocative cases will be followed up in successive issues just as far as the total situation permits.

A goal of the "Reporter" is public education. Young people of school and college age very frequently express deep interest in the UFO phenomenon. They should have available a source of information which is both authoritative and accurate, a publication which is respected and which therefore can be displayed openly in schools and libraries.

A cardinal principle of the "Reporter" and its staff is that funds which accrue from subscriptions be available to any serious investigator, and not only those associated with the Center for UFO Studies but to any person of demonstrated research ability who wishes to work in this provocative field.

Similarly, the pages of the "Reporter" are open to any serious UFO investigator, regardless of his or her association with organizations dedicated to furthering our knowledge of UFOs. It is hoped that the "Reporter" can serve as a forum for such individuals thus enhancing communication between them. This is a primary reason the newsletter format has been adopted. Exhaustive investigations of particular cases, or expositions of UFO theories, or lengthy statistical studies will be published by the Center for UFO Studies and, hopefully, by other organizations. Such studies will, of course, be summarized in the "Reporter", in line with keeping the public informed about current and continuing work.

Thus we launch this new publication, keeping in mind that

"To investigate is not necessarily
to agree
To report is not necessarily to
endorse
But not to inquire is to fail."

—Anon.

The International UFO Reporter is dedicated, first and foremost, to Inquiry.

FRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEWSFRONT * UFO NEW
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* * * * * * * THE LATEST UFO NEWS EVENTS, PREPARED AS WE GO TO PRESS * * * * * * *

UFO'S IN THE U.N. - Prime Minister Eric Gairy of the Caribbean island Grenada addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations on Oct. 7 on the UFO issue. According to the official press release, he called upon the governments of all nations to share their UFO information; secrecy may have been necessary in the past for military reasons, he said, but people today are ready for such information.

ABDUCTION IN KENTUCKY - UFO investigator Len Stringfield reports that he is continuing his investigation of the Stanford, Kentucky case highlighted in the Oct. 19 issue of the NATIONAL ENQUIRER. The results will be published in the MUFON UFO JOURNAL with a synopsis in IUR. Further information on the abduction of these three Kentucky women will be reported here as it develops.

ABDUCTION IN WESTERN KANSAS - A seemingly-routine call on the Center for UFO Studies' Hotline in late June has developed into a case reminiscent of Betty and Barney Hill. A young couple suffering from "time-loss" on June 20, 1976 have undergone more than 25 hours of regressive hypnosis, resulting in two similar, yet independent tales of abduction and medical examination by humanoids. Definite physical marks appear on both of their bodies. Results of the inquiry by Richard Sigismonde will be reported in future IUR's.

CE II CATALOG HITS 1000 - Ted Phillips ongoing catalog of PHYSICAL TRACES ASSOCIATED WITH UFO SIGHTINGS has just added its 1000th entry - information on a July, 1953 UFO sighting near Aquila, Italy seen by 3 witnesses, including an anti-aircraft team sergeant, at 11 PM. The UFO was shiny and blue, with a red longitudinal zone; it emitted a surrounding vapor, a fiery tail, and "drops" which fell to the ground. Some porous material was recovered the next day along with some filament like glass-wool. The catalog is available from the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill.

BRITISH UFO CONFERENCE - All British UFO groups are cooperating in the Second National Science Conference on UFO's, hosted by BUFORA, at the Center Hotel in Birmingham, England from Nov. 5 - 7. Ted Bloecher of the MUFON Humanoid Study Group will represent U.S. UFO research in a paper called, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind".

COYNE "HELICOPTER" ENCOUNTER CONTINUED - Jenny Zeidman of the Center for UFO Studies, in cooperation with the Civil Commission on Aerial Phenomena, is concluding a comprehensive report on the celebrated Major Coyne case; Major Coyne and the crew of an Army Reserve UH-1H helicopter had an apparent close encounter with a UFO the night of Oct. 18, 1973. The report describes an additional set of witnesses to the event and discredits previous suggestions of a meteor explanation.

UFO ANALYSIS - Of the 4 remaining cases, 2 were attributable to aircraft activity; the remaining 2 are probable NL's, but we were informed too late of these sightings to perform a truly adequate follow-up. The 11 recent sightings in October were all "IFO's": 5 stars, 4 ad planes, 1 helicopter, and 1 aircraft.

3 additional sightings for mid-October brings the total for this issue to 105. These were IFO's - stars and aircraft. See Profile: Oct. 1976 next issue.

FIVE UFO'S SELECTED FROM 102 CASES

HOW WE DEFINE UFO'S: Any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearance and/or behavior can't be ascribed to conventional objects and effects—not only by the original witnesses, but also by analysts who possess technical qualifications the original observer may lack.

NL—Nocturnal Light: distant anomalous lights seen in the night sky

DD—Daylight Discs: distant disc-like objects seen during the day

RV—Radar/Visual: UFOs seen by radar and vision simultaneously

CE I—Close Encounter of the First Kind: UFOs seen within 500 feet

CE II—Close Encounter of the Second Kind: CE I's that leave behind physical traces

CE III—Close Encounter of the Third Kind: CE I with humanoid occupants seen

HOW WE NUMBER CASES: All UFO sightings will receive a three element number which will serve as a case "name". The first numbers refer to the volume and issue number of the edition that contains the case, and the last number refers to the order it arrived (example: 1-1-7, the seventh case of the first issue).

1—Confirmed Identifieds

These reports completely break down as having commonplace explanations when subjected to rigorous scrutiny. We have either correlated them directly to some stimulus present at that time or, at least, have judged them to be well within the bounds of contemporary knowledge. This month's IFO reports were generated by the following phenomena:

• There are 11 recent cases still being investigated—the results will be made known in the news page

See Profile: Sept. 1976 for details on specific IFO's.

Verifications and complete details of these evaluations are on file and available upon request.

IFOs Reported for Sept. 15 through Oct. 14, Inclusive

Stars and Planets	29	Moon	1
Aircraft	15	Cloud	1
Research Balloons	11	Lenticular Cloud	1
Advertising Planes	10	Bird	1
Meteors	8	Searchlight	1
Prank Balloons	3	Unstable Witness	1
Satellites	2		
Helicopters	2	IFO TOTAL	86

2—UFOs of Limited Merit

These reports are of intermediate stature. They are UFOs in the sense that we don't know what they are, but for a variety of stated *reasons, they are not really worthy of closer scrutiny.*

CASE	TYPE	DATE	TIME	DURATION	WITNESSES	PLACE
1-1-6	NL	9/16/76	9:15PM	1-2 min.	6	Modesto, Ca.

"Rolling", orange ball of light heading slowly towards southern horizon along line of sight.
Suspect refracted aircraft light or prank balloon. Modesto control tower could not locate it.

1-1-7	NL	9/16/76	9:45PM	5 min.	1	Eureka, CA.

Large orange light at treetop level "like a headlight" rushed overhead, stopped and hovered. Witness drove off and could see it in the distance over the trees. Came back with camera, object gone.
Single witness case—unseen by Eureka control tower, not a weather balloon, unseen by neighboring church, no reports to press. Another unnamed caller told police of a gold object trailing sparks within ten minutes of this sighting. Possible prank balloon, with symptomatic dripping candle wax.

1-1-27	CE III	9/22/76	10:30PM	5 min.	1	Regal, MN.

Ten-year old boy sees 3½-foot creature with large bald head, large red eyes, and green skin floating outside his bedroom window. Two minutes later, the creature floated down to a cube-shaped craft, 5-6 feet tall with red lights which he entered.
The alleged ascent of this craft was unmonitored by Air Traffic Control in Minnesota, nor were any additional reports received by local or press agencies.
One is tempted to dismiss this single witness case as childhood imagination.

1-1-35	NL	9/24/76	2:30AM	5 min.	2	Otley, IA

A conservation officer and his wife watched a dark object fly over a reservoir at Elk Rock State Park at a speed (40 m.p.h.) and altitude (300 yds.) suggestive of a helicopter, but it made practically no noise as it passed near them, just a quiet hum. Binoculars helped reveal a blinking red light flanked by pairs of amber lights. Proceeded WNW.
No helicopters launched by Natl. Guard or State Police; no unusual activity recorded by Des Moines control tower or Pella Municipal. There are still several small airports in this area; the light configuration still suggests aircraft.

1-1-53	DD	9/28/76	4:15PM	30 sec.	1	Lone Rock, WI

A 60-year old man stopped his truck to watch an "inverted saucer" with welded sections and portholes descend over the hilly road 300 yds. in front of him, seemingly 10 feet above it. It vanished in a flash of yellow light; no traces on the road. Possible interference with engine idling and radio reception.
Single witness—4th UFO seen. No helicopters from Army Aviation, Natl. Guard, or State Police. No additional reports to sheriff, police or Madison control tower. Nothing seen by Cessna 132 pilot flying in that area at that time—indeed, it may have been the sun reflecting off of the Cessna.

This is a truly puzzling UFO report—potentially, a source of startling new knowledge. First, a comprehensive study of the UFO's reported characteristics, and then the technical judgment necessary to satisfy our UFO definition.

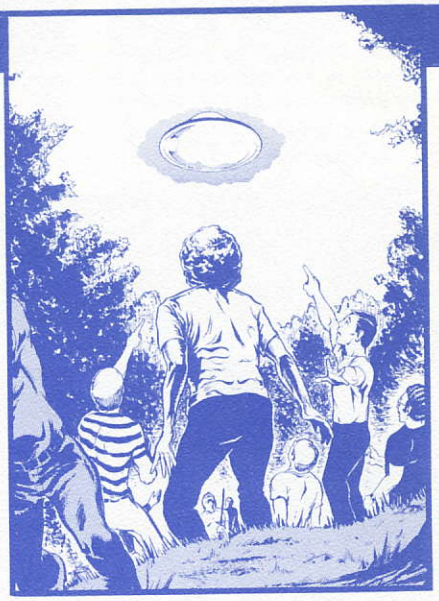
3—the UFO Finalist

DAYLIGHT CE I SEEN BY 14 WITNESSES IN CONNECTICUT

What are the necessary qualifications for a truly provocative UFO sighting—a CE I?

- It would have to be seen by many people to be reliable.
- It would have to be very close to rule out simple misidentification of distant objects.
- It should occur during daylight hours to be seen clearly.
- It should appear and act in an exotic manner.
- It should be consistent with the general patterns reported for the Close Encounters—a disc form, perhaps a dome . . . a trajectory involving hovering *and* rapid acceleration, as so many others have been alleged to exhibit.

Here is such a case, one that happened this summer; perhaps one of the best of the year. It was reported by Ira Leifer, a 23-year old camp counselor with a B.S. in political science, and 13 campers, all 14-15 years old. We are grateful to Paula Holmes of APRO who provided much useful assistance on this case.



Artist's Reconstruction; Approved With Modifications

ENVIRONMENT

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 1976. Time: 3:45 PM, EDT.
Place: Camp Delaware, a boys' summer camp 3 miles SW of Winsted, Connecticut; viewed through an open clearing in the trees at the summit of Blueberry Mountain (1460'), 1 mile NW of camp and 400' above local Crystal Lake.

APPEARANCE

The object looked like a flat-bottomed saucer, or half-dome, 15-25 feet in diameter. The surface was opaque, metallic silver in color, with a shiny, smooth texture. No seams or features were detected. A purple "aura" or haze surrounded the entire form, and on top of the saucer was a red "dome" (or volume of glowing gas). No heat or odor was reported.

MOTION

A high-pitched "whine" (like feedback from a loudspeaker) caused the witnesses to look up. The object appeared in an unwitnessed fashion at a steep angle to the observers. There it hovered in place for 15-25 seconds. A second "whine" heralded the swift departure of the object; the counselor attributed this to rapid vertical ascent in 1-2 seconds, while some of the campers couldn't tell *how* it vanished even though they stared at it continuously.

WEATHER

Witnesses described the weather as clear and calm, and at least 73 degrees as they were sweating. The U.S. Weather Bureau agreed: clear skies with thin cirrus at 20,000 feet, westerly winds at 3-5 m.p.h. 70-75 degrees F. with low humidity, 30-40%.

WITNESS REACTION

Object sighted by *14* witnesses who were resting during a hike. Ira Leifer said the hovering object was "like you see in the movies—it was really weird". He termed the incident "a very shocking experience", describing the group as "dumbfounded". Kerry Ezrol, one of the hikers, was skeptical about UFOs. "I don't know, now." When the object disappeared, the hikers broke into a run downhill back to camp.

ON THE CASE

Original source: Winsted Police Dept. via UFO Hotline. Comprehensive interview established with Ira Leifer by phone about 24 hours after sighting. From the next day on until the recent closing of the camp, the directors decided to prevent press and investigators alike from dealing with the witnesses due to the considerable news harassment. Only three of the thirteen hikers names are known. Written descriptions from all 14 witnesses were obtained by mail, courtesy of Paula Holmes of APRO, but none are signed.

Bradley International Airport is the closest FAA radar to Winsted, but the Deputy Chief told us they have no record of anything unusual. Their radar "ignores" any target lacking lateral motion. A survey of many police departments, news agencies, Talcott Mt. Science Center in Avon, and small airports failed to yield additional witnesses or reports. Johnnycake Airport in Harwinton had no flights over Winsted or sightings. State Police at Troop B, Canaan, knew of nothing that would stimulate the report. William Jacqueman of Winchester Weather Station ruled out weather balloons from New York and Albany due to wind direction.

Pease Air Force Base is the nearest SAC base to NW Connecticut; had any report of UFOs been received, interceptors would have been dispatched from here. Public Information Officer Col. Pierce said there were no inquiries about it, and added that no experimental craft now in research would have a range that far. A helicopter pilot in the Air Reserve likened the "whine" to the noise of a turbine engine "chopper", but noted that it would have been easily recognizable as such.

There are two disturbing elements here: one is a letter sent to the local paper supposedly by four of the hikers, confessing the incident to be a hoax that got out of hand. It was published five days after the sighting and "signed" by four pairs of initials. The camp *directors*, Joseph and Ruth Wainstock, informed the paper that none of the initials matched the undisclosed names of the campers. IUR also received a tip from a reporter who entered the camp and was told by a parent of the hikers that the counselor coached his charges what to say. Leifer denied this charge to the reporter.

To determine if these allegations were true, we called Kerry Ezrol, 14, and Gregg Bond, 15, (whose names and addresses appeared in newspaper articles) *after* the camp closed and they had returned home, away from peer group pressure. Both independently supported their original stories, over one month later.

No physical traces could be found in the area of the sighting. None of the witnesses suffered illness or discomfort.

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

ASTRONOMY, Dr. J. Allen Hynek: "No astronomical interpretation is possible at this time."

METEOROLOGY, Dept. of Atmospheric Science, CSU: The probability of a weather-related explanation is rather small in this case. One possibility is a formation known as a "wave" cloud over Blueberry Mtn., which *could* reflect light back, but these clouds generally occur in cooler weather and are longer-lasting."

Vern Zurick, NOAA/ERL, Colorado: "I have examined the meteorological radar records from N.Y.C. and Chatham, Mass. for 3:40 PM and 3:51 PM. This radar is very sensitive and perceives rain cells and aircraft alike. Nothing was perceived over Winsted at these times."

AERONAUTICS, Herb Roth, United Air Lines: "A fixed-wing aircraft requires *some* constant forward velocity for stability. A rotary-wing craft like a helicopter (or even an exotic, saucer-shaped hover-car experiment-Ed.) exerts extreme downward pressure, and the witnesses were all at a 45-75 degree angle underneath. Hence, this could not be a conventional aircraft."

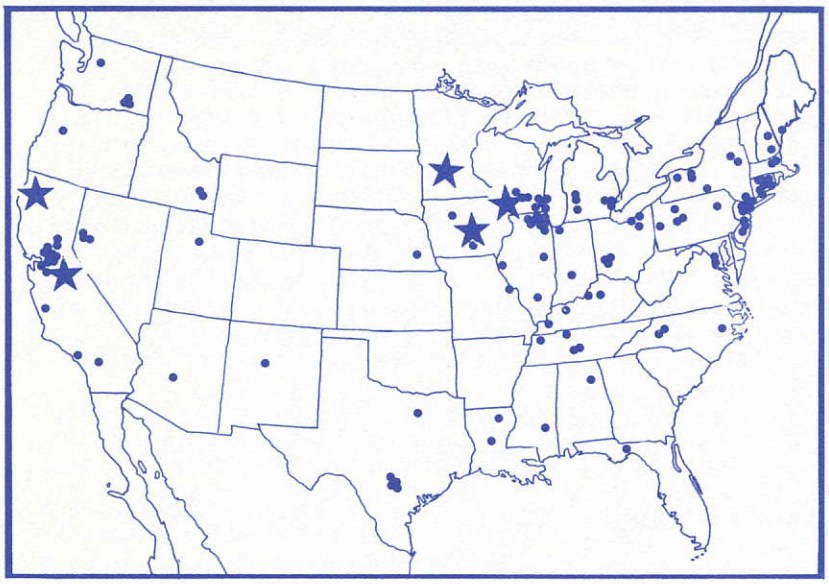
SOCIOLOGY, Dr. Robert Hall: "The Winsted case is a puzzling mixture. If I take a skeptic's stance, the case is unconvincing. If I study the details and try to estimate the most probable explanation, I believe the odds are that the witnesses really saw something that they could not explain. One's conclusion depends on whether or not one seeks an iron-clad case or the most probable hypothesis.

It is impossible to rule out a hoax, but on internal evidence I think that the probability of it is only about 30%. On the other hand, I estimate an 80% probability that the letter claiming a hoax is *itself* a "counter-hoax". However, additional evidence could change these estimates substantially. We would need more detailed interviews with all or most of the witnesses to make a better assessment."

CONCLUSIONS

Probability of	a hoax:	a natural explanation:	a genuine UFO sighting:
	30%	20%	**50%**

PROFILE: SEPTEMBER, 1976



● —IFO ★ —UFO

Stars and Planets	37
Aircraft	28
Advertising Planes	17
Research Balloons	11
Meteors	5
Reentry	3
Satellite	3
Prank Balloon	3
Moon	2
Helicopter	2
Kite Wire	1
Mirage	1
Cloud	1
Lenticular Cloud	1
Searchlight	1
Bird	1
"Unstable" Witness	1
NL	5
DD	1
CE III	1
Total Number of Reports	129
Average Per Day	4.3
Peak Activity (8 cases)	9/22, 9/24
Total Number of UFOs	7
Total Number of IFOs	118
Under Investigation	4

UFOs: 5.6% **IFOs:** 94.4%

WHY ADVERTISING PLANES?
Advertising planes fly at night with illuminated billboards of moving lights forming words. Seen at an angle, it looks exactly like a rotating disc. A red light is generally seen above the sign, often suggesting a dome.

HOAXES AND CRACKPOTS?
Note the 3 prank balloons (carrying candles) and the single report from the mentally unbalanced "witness"—misidentification is certainly a significant aspect of the total UFO phenomenon, but hoaxes and "crackpots" are NOT.

WHY SO MANY STARS?
Stars are being reported because they are seen to scintillate, or twinkle, and flash red and blue colors from atmospheric refraction. They are also seen to move erratically up, down and sideways, always returning to their original positions; this is imparted by atmospheric turbulence (unrelated to the "clearness" of the night sky), autokinesis (a common visual illusion in the absence of a frame of reference), and comparison with moving clouds.

UFOs include (2) unnumbered NL's, 1-1-6, 1-1-7, 1-1-27, 1-1-35, 1-1-53. Verifications and complete details of these evaluations are on file and available upon request.

• 9 of those 11 balloon sightings were generated by one cross-country U.S. Geological Survey research balloon.

COMMENTARY

TOWARDS A NEW TREATMENT

by Allan Hendry, Managing Editor

What kinds of changes are necessary to help UFOlogy progress toward a peer position with the "establishment" sciences? UFO sightings have been compiled for over a quarter of a century, but the field remains in a state of limbo—instead of arriving at a solution, we are still struggling to prove to the scientific community that a phenomenon *exists*. Part of the problem may lie in methodology—while previous accounts have been provocative, they have generally failed to serve as solid research data. The information has often been second- and third-hand, and thus, vulnerable to distortions. No standard investigation treatment has been adopted, one that would insure that minimally necessary data were always obtained. Most important, there has been a general failure to obtain expert analysis before the label "unidentified" has been applied. We should not and must not apply exotic and improbable "hypotheses" to UFO sightings *UNTIL* the more commonplace and probable explanations (both natural and psychological) have been exhausted.

What can IUR do to boost the credibility of this beleaguered field?

What can IUR do to help remedy these problems? First, we need a strong system of communications. So we have installed a WATS-phone system for unlimited and immediate contact with UFO witnesses. In the event of complex cases, or where samples can be collected, we can make use of carefully-selected field investigators spread across the country. We constantly monitor a 24-hour toll-free police "hotline", which provides us with several "prescreened" cases *each day*. Then, when we contact the witnesses of *every* case to obtain first-hand information, we can apply a uniform, comprehensive treatment to the investigations. We also check on local police, airports, weather bureaus, military bases, observatories, news agencies, balloon launch sites, advertising plane companies, FAA towers . . . even NASA, NORAD, and the FBI in search of corroborating evidence, both visual and radar. Then our scientific consultants can begin to perform a meaningful study of the worthy cases, after the "identifieds" have been weeded out.

— more next month —